

**Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/c.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken.”

Thursday, May 9, 2013

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR RICHARD S. ANDREWS

The regular meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard S. Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Debbie Anselmo
Trustee Anne Bermier
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Norman L. Schnaufer
Trustee Dennis Schermerhorn
Trustee Matt Walsh

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration
Steve Busa, Treasurer
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk
Trustee Elect Tom Hinshaw

Trustee Elect Brenda O’Laughlin
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent
Trustee Elect Amy Jo Wittenberg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all”*.

MAYOR’S REPORT – RICHARD ANDREWS

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees paused for a moment of silence in memory of those that lost their life and suffered injuries in the Boston Marathon bombing. Also in memory of the passing of Mary Crowley’s mother-in-law and former Village Trustee Kenneth Knutson who was a Trustee in the 1970’s.

Mayor Andrews stated in April an election was held for the three Village Trustee positions and there were six candidates running for that office. The three candidates selected by the voters were Tom Hinshaw, Brenda O’Laughlin and Amy Jo Wittenberg to serve as Village Trustees. He congratulated the three new Trustees on their election and also thanked everyone who voted in the election.

Mayor Andrews extended a special thank you to the three outgoing Trustees Debbie Anselmo, Anne Bermier and Dennis Schermerhorn for their dedicated and tireless efforts on behalf of all Indian Head Park residents. Mayor Andrews stated no matter whatever a resident’s viewpoint was in the last election or candidate of choice, we can all agree that the three individuals leaving the Board have served the Village well, they deserve sincere thanks, their service on the Board was appreciated and he wished them all well in the future.

Mayor Andrews welcomed the three newly elected Trustees Tom Hinshaw, Brenda O’Laughlin and Amy Jo Wittenberg to the Village Board. Mayor Andrews stated as a new chapter begins the common focus should be putting all residents of Indian Head Park first, he looks forward to working with the new trustees as well as the current incumbent trustees and support of the residents as we all try to work together to move forward.

Mayor Andrews stated at the last Board meeting the topic of a road program and vehicle sticker fees was discussed. He noted after receiving input from the three newly elected Trustees and others it was decided that at this time the matter would not be addressed at the meeting this evening. Mayor Andrews stated this decision does not mean there will not be a road program at some point and the Board is aware of streets and curbs in the community that are in need of repairs or maintenance. He added this matter will be discussed at a later date.

Mayor Andrews stated he would like to move forward with a road program possibly sometime later this year. However, any loan the Village might need to obtain to facilitate a road program will need to be paid back.

Mayor Andrews asked Superintendent Santen to provide a report on the Cochise Watermain Project. Superintendent Santen stated the status of the Cochise Watermain Project was posted on the Village Website, notices were also delivered to the residents in the area of the project, equipment is on-site and materials to complete the project were delivered. He added Uno Construction started saw-cutting the street to start excavation on Monday, the watermain will be shut-down for a period of time on Monday to install a valve, the watermain project will continue with the installation of an eight inch watermain with approximately 1,900 linear feet of pipe, a stone base will be installed to restore the area that was excavated and when the project is finalized landscaping areas that were disturbed will be restored. Mayor Andrews asked Superintendent Santen and Chief Alonzo to provide notification to residents on Cochise if the water service will be disrupted for a period of time.

Mayor Andrews stated a resident on Pontiac Drive has concerns with the installation of the valve in the excavation area and that it might disrupt the flow of water if there are heavy rains. Superintendent Santen stated the crews will keep a close eye on the areas close to the street so there is no impact in that area.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – April 11, 2013

After review of meeting minutes, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the April 11, 2013 Village Board meeting minutes, as amended. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

ADMINISTERING OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS BY JIM MCCARTHY

Tom Hinshaw, Village Trustee

Brenda O’Laughlin, Village Trustee

Amy Jo Wittenberg, Village Trustee

Jim McCarthy administered the Oath of Office to each of the three newly elected Trustees for their four year terms on the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Indian Head Park.

COMMENTS BY NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Trustee Hinshaw thanked everyone for their work and help and stated he looks forward to the next four years. He also thanked Anne Bermier, Debbie Anselmo, and Dennis Schermerhorn for their service as well as the rest of the Board and staff for all their work and efforts.

Trustee O’Laughlin thanked everyone and stated she is honored to be standing here today and most grateful to the people of Indian Head Park who believed in and supported her with their votes. She added a democracy is a wonderful thing because it enables any and all of us to have our voices heard and that is what inspired us to run for office. Trustee O’Laughlin stated she was fortunate enough to speak with many residents of Indian Head Park during this election, those residents also want to be heard and be involved in the community, there were many great ideas such as a community clean-up day and that would be a great opportunity for everyone to get involved to beautify the community. Trustee O’Laughlin stated she looked forward in the future to these ideas and involvement from the community, now the work begins and she remains open and accessible for exchange of ideas that were received during the campaign. She added as we plot the way forward for Indian Head Park, input is needed from the community so please voice your concerns so Indian Head Park can be the best it can be for all citizens. Trustee O’Laughlin stated her family has lived in Indian Head Park for a long time, now as Trustee she looks forward to the future how we all can make a difference and she thanked everyone for their support.

Trustee Wittenberg stated it is an honor and privilege to be elected by citizens of Indian Head Park to serve as Village Trustee. She further stated the work is now in front of the Board, there is a lot of work to be done in the Village, she looks forward to coming together to work with all Village Trustees, administration, residents and employees some of which have been with the Village for many years. Trustee Wittenberg added she looks forward to a dialogue and communication with everyone in the Village, opinions and ideas to work towards a comprehensive short and long term plan as it relates to Village finances, infrastructure, public safety and to communicate those plans to everyone in the Village. Trustee Wittenberg stated it is wonderful there are so many residents at the meeting tonight, she hopes to see more residents at meetings in the future and part of going forward will be to keep the community engaged through meetings, information on the Website and participation from residents to make Indian Head Park a better place.

Mayor Andrews stated he appreciates the comments from all three new trustees, he looks forward to working with everyone to move forward, there were many good ideas that came out of the campaign and he is open minded to do whatever is best for all of Indian Head Park.

PRESENTATION OF SERVICE RECOGNITION PLAQUES TO TRUSTEES, ANSELMO, BERMIER AND SCHERMERHORN

Mayor Andrews stated he is honored to present Trustees Anselmo, Bermier and Schermerhorn with a service plaque recognizing their dedication, time and effort that was devoted to serving as Village Trustee. He presented a plaque with the following inscription to Trustee Bermier (1981 to 2013), Trustee Anselmo (as Trustee 2004 to 2013) and Trustee Schermerhorn (as Trustee 2012 to 2013): *"In recognition for your dedication, integrity, leadership and service to the Village of Indian Head Park, as Village Trustee, we are a better community because of you"*.

Trustee Bermier stated she could not have served as Trustee without the help of many people including six mayors she worked with and many Board members over many years, Police Chiefs and staff, Public Works personnel and administration staff, committees, commissions and docents of the Heritage Center. She noted when she became Trustee in 1981 there was no cable television in the community, there was no Lake Michigan water at that time and it was a privilege to serve the community for so many years.

Trustee Bermier recalled when she first was elected to the Board in 1981 one of her first assignments was to determine any detached shed structures that were in violation of the code, there were about fifty and during the research of this project she met a motorcycle gang, a resident put a shed on wheels so it was not a permanent structure and violation of the code and she received a letter from a 3rd grade student that said please save my playhouse. Trustee Bermier stated there were many compromises over that time, she has many wonderful memories and she wished the three newly elected officials all the best.

Trustee Anselmo stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Trustee on the Board and she wished the three new trustees luck as new members of the Board.

Trustee Schermerhorn stated his time on the Board as Trustee was short but he enjoyed working with everyone, Board members volunteer much of their time and he enjoyed being part of Village Board.

Mayor Andrews stated that he wished to recognize Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart who is also present at the meeting this evening.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REGARDING PETITION #178 – A REQUEST FOR A SIDE YARD VARIANCE – 11341 HIAWATHA LANE – CHAIRPERSON NOREEN COSTELLOE

Chairperson Noreen Costelloe reported a public hearing was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, to consider Zoning Petition #178 submitted by Kent Walczak for a side yard variance of five feet (5') with regard to a new home to be constructed at 11341 Hiawatha Lane. She noted the following: (1) the property is zoned R-1 Residential; (2) the property is a lot of record with a lot width of sixty-six feet (66') (3) both proposed side yards are ten-feet (10') (a total combined yard of twenty-five feet (25') is required in this zoning district; (4) this is not an unusual request for a variance for properties on Hiawatha with the same lot dimension width; (5) there have been several variances on Hiawatha Lane granted over the years for new homes, many of those variances were for greater footage; (6) there were some members in attendance at the public hearing and although there were some questions asked, there were no objections voiced to granting the requested variance; (7) the Commission considered the Findings of Fact as required by Title 17, Zoning and;

(8) the unanimous recommendation from the Commission is to approve the petition for a five-foot (5') side yard variance as presented, conditioned upon the side yard of the property not being used for storage of any kind.

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to accept the report from the Planning and Zoning Commission with regard to Petition #178. Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to accept the report from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding Petition #178. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Mayor Andrews thanked Kent Walczak, the owner of 11341 Hiawatha Lane, for his interest in building a new home in Indian Head Park. He noted the public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission was just held this week and counsel would need time to prepare an ordinance for consideration by the Board consistent with the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. He added the final action and ordinance can be considered at the next Board meeting for approval. Mayor Andrews stated it has been the past practice that if the petitioner is willing to abide by all requirements set forth by the Zoning Commission, including but not limited to State Statute and Municipal Code, a conditional permit could be granted to allow the petitioner to finalize plans. Mr. Kent Walczak stated he is willing to comply with any and all requirements set forth by the Village Board and conditions set forth by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Andrews stated final plans will need to be reviewed for Building and Zoning code compliance for permit issuance and engineering will need to be reviewed in connection with this project.

Trustee Hinshaw inquired how far back is the right-of-way on Hiawatha Lane from the road because there are two trees in the front of property. He asked if the trees will remain on the property. Kent Walczak stated the front yard setback for his new home is forty-feet (40') from the known property iron marking, the existing home was demolished with some landscaping removed and trees left on the property will remain. Trustee Hinshaw stated that he attended the Planning and Zoning Commission hearing and stated Trustee Schermerhorn was present and provided a short zoning summary which was fantastic.

Chris Metz, of Arrowhead Court, stated he is in favor of the requested variance, he lives behind the project area and he did not receive written notice of the hearing.

Mayor Andrews stated if there was an oversight on receiving a mailing he apologized and mentioned that a legal notice is also published in the newspaper to notify property owners and also a sign is posted on the subject property for at least fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing date regarding a zoning matter. Mayor Andrews stated the Village makes every effort to identify and notify someone of a hearing and there are three methods of notification in case someone does not receive one of the notifications. He added a section of the zoning code was amended in 1995 to allow for additional notice requirements by written notice and posting of a sign because someone mentioned at that time they did not receive a written letter sent by mail. Mayor Andrews stated that according to our zoning code if the zoning sign was posted but fell over for some reason, the requirement for notification by legal notice or mailing of a letter was satisfied so the hearing could still proceed and the same applies if the sign is up and legal notice was published but someone did not receive a letter. Mayor Andrews stated Counsel Ramello reviewed the requirements of State law, Villages with populations over 500,000 are required to send a letter and publish in a newspaper of general circulation. For Villages less than 500,000 in population like Indian Head Park, the only requirement by State law is to publish in the newspaper. The Village implemented several methods of notification regarding zoning matters and in this case is not in violation of any State laws.

Chris Metz stated there was a property in unincorporated Cook County several years ago that wanted to put a cell tower up and after the zoning was granted it turned out someone did not receive a letter and it was determined proper notice was not given on that zoning matter. Trustee Hinshaw asked if the notification area is properties within two hundred feet (200'). Counsel Ramello, responded, yes. Mayor Andrews stated letters were sent to various addresses on Hiawatha Lane and without an exact measure possibly there may have been two properties on Arrowhead Court and one on Apache at the rear of the lot line that should have received a letter. Trustee Walsh inquired how long the zoning sign was posted and when the legal notice was published. Mayor Andrews stated the zoning sign was posted twenty days (20) prior to the hearing date and the legal notice was published in the *Suburban Life* on April 17, 2013.

Joan Metz stated the zoning sign is printed only on one side and it was facing Hiawatha. She asked if a date could be printed on the sign for future reference and printed on both sides. Mrs. Metz stated she does not know if the *Suburban Life* has a broad publication in Indian Head Park, many times they do not cover stories in some areas and she asked if the *Doings Newspaper* would be a better choice for publications.

Tim Kyzivat, of Acacia, stated it is different if a newspaper is trying to report news as opposed to selecting a newspaper for publication of legal notices and the Village satisfied the publication requirement.

Ellen Raymond, of Burr Ridge, stated as a former member of the Planning and Zoning Commission in Indian Head Park, she mentioned there was a variance granted many years that had an impact on neighbors and one person said they did not receive a letter about the zoning matter. Additional trees and landscaping between the properties were planted at that time.

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to grant a conditional permit to allow for the construction of a new home at 11341 Hiawatha Lane as presented by the applicant Mr. Kent Walczak, consistent with recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission and subject to state and local requirements. Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Schnaufer, to grant a conditional permit in connection with the construction of a new home at 11341 Hiawatha Lane subject to all conditions set forth. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Ayes: Trustees: Bailey, Hinshaw, O’Laughlin, Schnaufer, Walsh, Wittenberg

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Andrews asked Mr. Walczak to contact Kathy Leach in the Administration Office with regard to granting a conditional permit with the requirements set forth by the Village Board. Mr. Walczak stated he is excited about becoming a resident of Indian Head Park. Mayor Andrews further stated the formal ordinance will be addressed at the June Village Board meeting.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

John Corcoran, of Apache Drive, inquired about the water valve installation on Monday. He asked if other areas of the Village are affected by the water service disruption. Superintendent Santen stated approximately thirty-five (35) homes are affected in the area of Pontiac, Shabbona and Tecumseh for a short period of time.

Tom Heaney, of Plainfield Road, stated he is a resident of Indian Head Park for the past thirteen years. He stated there is a main water line on Plainfield Road that was never looped when his home was built, a two acre property on Plainfield owned by Mr. LeBeau is to be developed and the plan was to loop the water line when the property is developed.

Superintendent Santen stated he agrees with Mr. Heaney. He noted the LaGrange Highlands Sanitary District maintains and operates the water infrastructure in that area and possibly they could provide input. Mr. Heaney stated the current election sent a message to the Board that people may not be happy about what has transpired in the past and it was time for a change and new ideas. Mr. Heaney further stated hopefully the message was heard, there are three new people on the Board who will work very hard and he hopes everyone will work together. Mr. Heaney stated the Board cannot keep coming back to the residents on off election periods three times trying to get more money by home rule. Mayor Andrews stated the home rule election was in November 2010 and that home rule was proposed one time on a ballot at a major general election when voters were selecting a new governor and U.S. Senator.

Joan Metz, stated that Trustee Bermier previously served as Trustee liaison to Police and the Heritage Center, Trustees Anselmo and Schermerhorn to other areas. She asked when the new Trustee assignments will be made. Mayor Andrews stated he will soon be making Trustee assignments.

Trustee Hinshaw stated that he received a \$60.00 refund check in the mail from his homeowners insurance for a reduced premium based on a reclassified ISO rating from the Fire Department. He mentioned the Pleasantview Fire Department received a higher ISO rating based on a ten year ISO audit which resulted in a lower premium. Trustee Hinshaw stated the Pleasantview Fire Department mentioned they would be sending information via their newsletter and if residents are interested in learning if they are entitled to a refund, they should contact their insurance company.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Hinshaw moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 8:30 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Leach, Deputy Village Clerk/Recording Secretary